

For Immediate Release
October 18, 2007
(201) 222-2828

Contact: Olga Alvarez

(Washington, D.C.) - Congressman Albio Sires made the following statement today following the failure of the House of Representatives to override President Bush's veto of the States Children's Health Insurance Program bill:

"Partisan politics has won out to helping needy children. It is a shame that some of my colleagues in the House have missed out on a good opportunity to help 10 million American children get the health coverage they need.

"The State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) bill that was put before President Bush for his signature was a sensible compromise agreed upon by a bipartisan majority. More than 270 organizations, including the American Medical Association, AARP and Families USA have expressed that it was a workable solution to the health needs of low-income children. Numerous editorials were written in support of it. Recent polls show that 81 percent of Americans stood behind this legislation. Even with all of this support, ten million American children will not gain the benefits of this bill because a handful of my colleagues supported a partisan request.

"I will continue to advocate for a reauthorization of SCHIP that will ensure that our most needy children have access to health care."

(####)